

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

29. (Currently amended) A process for obtaining a highly-purified alginate composition, the process comprising the steps of:
- a) ~~extracting an~~ treating raw algae material with a complex forming agent ~~for providing a solution containing solved~~ creating a liquid comprising dissolved alginate and solid matter;
 - b) ~~filtering the~~ said liquid to produce a filtrate, said filtrate being a solution comprising dissolved alginate;
 - c) precipitating the said alginate out of the said solution;
 - d) collecting and dewatering the precipitated alginate; and
 - e) repeating the steps a) to d) at least once.
30. (Original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid is used as a complex forming agent for the extraction.
31. (Original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the extracting takes place in a soda solution.
32. (Original) A process according to Claim 30, wherein activated carbon is added for the extraction of the solution.
33. (Original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein, before the filtering of the solution, sedimentation of cell constituents and particles from the solution is carried out with a porous binding agent.

34. (Original) A process according to Claim 33, wherein the sedimentation takes place with a porous granulate on the basis of diatomaceous earth, cellulose, or recycling materials from regenerated raw materials.
35. (Original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the filtering takes place with deep filters, and the solution is subjected to more than one filtration, and the pore size of the filters used decreases for successive filtrations.
36. (Original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the precipitation of the alginate takes place in a solution containing ethanol.
37. (Original) A process according to Claim 36, wherein the ethanol content is selected in the range from about 10% to about 50%.
38. (Original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the collecting of the precipitated alginate is effected by foaming out of the solution, by decanting from the solution, or by stirring the solution with a stirring and collecting device.
39. (Original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the dewatering of the alginate takes place at room temperature.
40. (Original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the algae material used in the process is fresh algae material occurring in nature, fresh algae material cultivated in a bioreactor or tank system, or algae material from fused or regenerated algae cells.
41. (Original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the algae material used in the process is specific organ or tissue parts of algae or algae parts, or specific organ or tissue parts of algae or algae parts from specific stages of the development cycle of algae.
42. (Previously amended) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the algae material used in the process is an alginate-producing fresh-water or salt-water algae.
52. (Currently amended) An alginate composition, manufactured by the process according to Claim 29, comprising a mixed polymer of mannuronic acid and guluronic acid, in which the ratio of mannuronic acid to guluronic acid in the mixed polymer is in the range